

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) For use in a wireless network, a base station comprising an antenna array capable of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with said base station, wherein said base station

receives a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection,

associates a first one of said received data packets with a corresponding first one of said S sectors,

associates a second one of said received data packets with a corresponding second one of said S sectors, said first and second sectors being different ones of said S sectors, and

concurrently transmits said first and second data packets in said corresponding first and second sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame,

and wherein said first data frame of said wireline connection has a duration T, said first forward channel data frame has a duration T, and said first subframe has a duration less than T.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The base station as set forth in Claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional data packet associated with said first sector in said first sector during a period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

24. (Previously Presented) The base station as set forth in Claim 23, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional data packet associated with said second sector in said second sector during said period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

25. (Previously Presented) The base station as set forth in Claim 24, wherein said base station transmits said first additional data packet and said second additional data packet sequentially.

26. (Currently Amended) The base station as set forth in Claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional data packet associated with said first sector in said first sector in a first dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

27. (Previously Presented) The base station as set forth in Claim 26, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional data packet associated with said second sector in said second sector in a second dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

28. (Previously Presented) The base station as set forth in Claim 27, wherein said first dedicated time slot and said second dedicated time slot are sequential time slots.

29. (Currently Amended) A wireless network comprising a plurality of base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations in a coverage area of said wireless network,

wherein a first one of said plurality of base stations comprises an antenna array capable of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with said first base station, and

wherein said first base station

receives a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection,

associates a first one of said received data packets with a corresponding first one of said S sectors,

associates a second one of said received data packets with a corresponding second one of said S sectors, said first and second sectors being different ones of said S sectors, and

concurrently transmits said first and second data packets in said corresponding first and second sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame,

and wherein said first data frame of said wireline connection has a duration T, said first forward channel data frame has a duration T, and said first subframe has a duration less than T.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The wireless network as set forth in Claim ~~30~~ 29, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional data packet associated with said first sector in said first sector during a period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

32. (Previously Presented) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 31, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional data packet associated with said second sector in said second sector during said period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

33. (Previously Presented) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 32, wherein said first base station transmits said first additional data packet and said second additional data packet sequentially.

34. (Previously Presented) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional data packet associated with said first sector in said first sector in a first dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

35. (Previously Presented) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 34, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional data packet associated with said second sector in said second sector in a second dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

36. (Previously Presented) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 35, wherein said first dedicated time slot and said second dedicated time slot are sequential time slots.

37. (Currently Amended) For use in a base station of a wireless network, a method of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with the base station comprising the steps of:

receiving in the base station a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection;

associating a first one of the received data packets with a corresponding first one of the S sectors;

associating a second one of the received data packets with a corresponding second one of the S sectors, wherein the first and second sectors are different ones of the S sectors; and

transmitting concurrently the first and second data packets in the corresponding first and second sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame,

wherein the first data frame of the wireline connection has a duration T, the first forward channel data frame has a duration T, and the first subframe has a duration less than T.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~38~~ 37, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first additional data packet associated with the first sector in the first sector during a period of the first forward channel data frame following the first subframe; and

transmitting a second additional data packet associated with the second sector in the second sector during the period of the first forward channel data frame following the first subframe.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 39, wherein the first additional data packet and the second additional data packet are transmitted sequentially.